Program for Raising Standards of Dental Education Utilizing Integrative Functions

Program for Promoting Inter-University Collaborative Education by the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology in 2012
Common Concerns Among 29 Dental Universities and Schools in Japan

Training Dental Practitioners to meet the needs of today’s changing society

Collaborative Educational Platform

Evaluations will be carried out by both internal and external evaluating committees. The evaluative educational committee will implement regular reviews and seek for self-improvement and self-evaluation. It will compile the points of the dental departments of the three universities as well as local dentists of the Japanese Dental Education Association. Ten times of self-evaluations are set in the three universities. The evaluative committee will conscript evaluations outside the three universities as well as examinations in the secret education committee in the three universities and will conclude self-evaluations at the initial third year and at the conclusion of the final year.

External Evaluating Committees

Evaluation will be centered on both internal and external evaluating committees. The evaluative educational committee will implement regular reviews and seek for self-improvement and self-evaluation. It will compile the points of the dental departments of the three universities as well as local dentists of the Japanese Dental Education Association.

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Network for Implementing Collaboration

To promote this program a joint educational platform, the Collaborative Educational Platform Committee is to be implemented. It will comprise the Deans of the dental departments, the academic heads as well as stakeholders, these persons will carry out management of the program, evaluations, and official announcements as they establish. This will comprise the deans of the three university dental departments, the academic heads as well as board members. To promote this program a joint educational platform, the "Collaborative Educational Platform Committee" is to be established. For the purpose of sharing achievements, this committee will be responsible for evaluations in tandem with cooperating toward the training of researchers to link with the training of researchers to developing educational research resources able to take leading roles in the field of dental education.

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Prospective Outcomes

Targeting 150 candidates every year for implementing instruction to create individual all-round oral health practitioners with all-inclusive techniques and skills.

Internal Evaluating Committees

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Background

In 2009, the Ministry of Education, Sports, Culture, Science and Technology compiled and released its first report on the “Plan for Training Dental Professionals Equipped with Recognized Abilities in Clinical Practice.” This report noted the following problems and issues in dental education:

- A decline in both clinical practice and clinical abilities on graduation from dental departments due to the streamlining of curricula;
- The need for augmenting educational resources for implementing seamless dental instruction;
- The need for ensuring outstanding candidates;
- The need for fostering the next generation of dental researchers.

In response to these, the following recommendations were made:

1) Ensuring of necessary clinical capabilities for dental professionals;
2) Implementation of a seamless course of instruction to train outstanding dental practitioners;
3) Ensuring the application of outstanding scholars intending to answer the social demands for dental practitioners;
4) Training of researchers for pioneering work in the field of oral health care.

In addition to these, other areas of concern were indicated. These included a lagging behind in international and domestic standards for dental education, and disparities among institutions arising from the lack of accreditation system in dental education in Japan.

This report indicated the urgency for resolving these issues in ensuring quality of dental education.

Purpose

The purpose of this project is ultimately to aim for higher quality in dental education. This will be done by utilizing the existing educational and research networks that have been created and managed so that the three institutions of higher learning (Niigata University, Tohoku University, Hiroshima University) can jointly share their particular educational resources and thus augment each other’s dental education. In addition, by communicating with each other their accomplishments and carrying out mutually strict, objective evaluations, this project will serve to standardize dental education practices. This will contribute toward ensuring the quality of oral health care in the future even as it aims to bring the standards of oral health care in Japan to internationally recognized levels.

Outline

To achieve the goals of the project, the three universities will first establish a “Collaborative Educational Platform” which will serve as a forum for promoting educational improvement among them.

As practical measures for planning and managing this project, the Collaborative Educational Platform will sponsor faculty development programs and direct exchange among those faculty members in charge. It will implement the following actions for the three universities to achieve together the goals of the project:

- The development, provision, implementation, and improvement of outstanding educational materials for dentistry;
- The development of Problem-Based Learning for identifying and solving problems;
- The provision of distinctive, specialized instruction (exchanging of lectures, courses);
- The implementation of externships--student exchange--in the field of dentistry;
- The development of objective methods for evaluations.
To Attain the International Standard for Dental Education

Program for Promoting Inter-University Collaborative Education, representing institution

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